

## Blackrod Urban District Council.

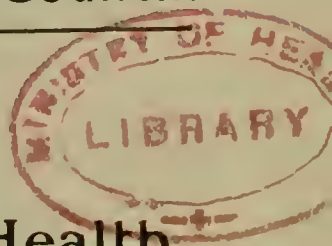
# Annual Report

## OF THE

# Medical Officer of Health

(Dr. L. UNSWORTH)

FOR 1943.



*To the Chairman and Members of the BLACKROD URBAN  
DISTRICT COUNCIL.*

LADY AND GENTLEMEN.

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Blackrod Urban District for the year 1943.

### General Statistics.

Area (Acres) ... ..	2392.394
Population (Census 1931)...	3,599
Number of Inhabited Houses ...	906
Rateable Value ... ..	£10,743
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	£44/15/3

Extracts from Vital Statistics during the year 1943.

These are delayed owing to War conditions,

Extracts from Vital Statistics during the year 1942.

		Total	Males	Females
Live Births	Legitimate	49	25	24
	Illegitimate	1	—	1
		—	—	—
		50	25	25

Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population Mid-1942 17.2

			Total	Males	Females
Still Births	...	...	1	—	1
Rate per 1000 total (live and still) Births				19	

			Total	Males	Females
Deaths	...	...	26	12	14
Death Rate per 1000 estimated population				8.9	

Deaths from puerperal causes ;—	Deaths	Death Rate per 1000 total (live and still) Births
Puerperal & post-abortive sepsis	nil	—
Other maternal causes	1	19.60
Total	1	19.60

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1000 live births	...	...	40
Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate live births			20
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births			1.000

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	1
„ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	nil
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	nil
„ Diarrhoea (under two years of age)...	...	...	...	nil

### Notifiable Diseases during 1943.

	Total at all ages	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Cases re- moved to Hospital	Deaths in Hos- pital	Total deaths
Scarlet Fever .. ..	7				2		4	1						6		
Diphtheria .. ..	1				1									1		
Measles .. ..	69		10	6	13	8	3	1								
Whooping Cough.. ..	9	2	2	1	1	1	2									
Acute Pneumonia .. ..	2	1							1							1
Dysentery .. ..	1								1							
Tuberculosis :—																
Pulmonary	5										2	3				3
Non-Pulmonary	3						1	1	1							
Totals ..	97	3	12	7	17	9	38	3	3		2	3		7		4

## Causes of Deaths during 1943.

		Males	Females
Tuberculosis of resp. system	...	2	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	—	—
Cancer of Stomach	...	1	—
Cancer of all other sites	...	3	3
Diabetes	...	—	1
Intercranial vascular lesions	...	1	5
Heart Disease	...	8	8
Pneumonia	...	3	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	1	—
Other digve disease	...	1	1
Congenital Malformation	...	2	—
Road traffic accident	...	2	—
All other causes	...	2	3
		—	—
	Total	26	22

NOTE :—There were 12 transferable deaths which are included in the above.

## Causes of Sickness during the year 1943.

There were 97 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year as compared with 47 in 1942. This is accounted for by an outbreak of Measles during March and April. Altogether there were 69 cases of measles compared with 37 in 1942. Again, only 1 case of Diphtheria was notified. The response to Diphtheria immunisation was satisfactory. 21 children were immunised against Diphtheria during the year. 7 cases of Fever and 1 of Diphtheria were treated in hospital.

## Nursing Arrangements.

There is one District Nurse who is also a practising registered Midwife.

## Hospital Accommodation.

For Smallpox—no provision.

Other Infectious Diseases—Joint Hospital situated at Fall Birch, Horwich, with subscription in proportion to rateable value. There are 54 beds in all, but no special number is allotted to any one district.

The Public Health Staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer, and a Sanitary Inspector who is also Surveyor. Some permanent clerical assistance should be afforded the Sanitary Inspector.

A Visiting Nurse is provided by the County.

### Ambulance Facilities.

One Motor Ambulance belonging to the District Council is available for all types of cases (except Infectious Disease) and is adequate for the needs of the district. Infectious Disease cases are removed by the Motor Ambulance belonging to Fall Birch Isolation Hospital.

### Mortuary.

The Mortuary situated at the Cemetery is sufficient for the requirements of the District.

### Sanitary Administration.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

- (a) Source of supply ;—Own Waterworks, Gathering Ground at Rivington (Moorland.)
- (b) Condition :—a good constant supply to all houses in the district.
- (c) Possibility of Contamination :—Although no evidence of contamination has been "discovered up to the present, it would perhaps be advisable to instal a chlorinating plant at an early date.

#### SCAVENGING.

This is satisfactorily done by Sanitary Authority.

Privy Middens and Cesspools are emptied at regular intervals.

#### SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Method of treatment is by land irrigation.

Character of drainage system—combined and separate systems, which is satisfactory apart from the tendency of the tanks at Scot Lane to overflow into the brook following abnormal rainfall.

### Sanitary Inspections during the year.

Number of premises visited	...	...	212
Defects or Nuisances discovered	...	...	76
Number abated	...	...	76
Notices served ;—Informal 54, Statutory—nil.			
Legal proceedings taken—nil.			

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

None in the district.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are no Public Slaughterhouses. There are two private ones (1 registered and 1 licensed) but these are of course closed during the present national emergency, except for a few animals which are slaughtered under a permit granted by the Food Executive Officer.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection and disposal of Household and Trade refuse is carried out by direct labour ; one motor lorry, supplemented by a horse and cart when necessary, are employed on this work. Salvage is collected, sorted, and baled where possible, and removed, periodically to licensed merchants.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES—None in the district.

## SCHOOLS.

There are four public elementary schools in the district, and the general conditions of sanitation and water supplies are satisfactory. In one of the schools, however, where tippler closets are in use, some improvement could be effected.

## BAKEHOUSES

There are 2 retail bakehouses, both of which are periodically visited.

## DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

These have been inspected and their condition generally was found to be satisfactory, although in one or two instances improvements are required. No. of Inspections—39.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number in District...	...	...	...	7
Bleachworks (closed as factory)	...	...	...	1
Weaving Shed (closed as factory)	...	...	...	1
Cloggers ...	...	...	...	2
Wheelwright ...	...	...	...	1
Plumbers and Joiners...	...	...	...	1
Inspections	...	9		

## Infectious Disease and Disinfection.

Number of Houses disinfected during the year—9.

Rooms are fumigated with "Tower" fumigators, and patients suffering from Infectious Disease are removed by Motor Ambulance to Fall Birch Hospital.

## Conveniences In the District.

Privy Middens—Middens...	...	...	83
Closets attached	...	...	152
Pail Closets	...	...	17
Dry Ashpits (excluding middens)	...	...	4
Movable Ashbins	...	...	638
Number of Houses on water carriage system...			734
Fresh Water Closets	...	...	717
Waste Water Closets	...	...	16

## CONVERSIONS DURING THE YEAR.

One additional Water Closet has been provided.

## Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year—nil.

The housing standard is low with 30 % which within 20 years will be classed as unfit for habitation. Many of the houses are old. Rising and penetrating dampness and roofs where timber supports are spent, want of bathroom, lighting and ventilation under standard, are the commonest forms of housing defects. 23 dwellings were overcrowded at the end of the year. Further erection of houses is of course in abeyance during the present national emergency.

## Chief Sanitary requirements of the district.

Further privy conversions, re-conditioning and housing repairs are in abeyance during the present national emergency

SCABIES. There have been a few cases of Scabies in the district and we have no public facilities for cleansing purposes.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council's Officers for their kind and valued co-operation during the year.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

LEO. UNSWORTH.

Dalton House, Westhoughton,

30th October, 1944.



